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CURRENT LITERATURE.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Vegetable foods.

THIS well-known work of MOELLER on this subject,¹ first put out about twenty years ago, has played an important part in connection with the increasing use of the microscope as a practical instrument for recognizing vegetable substances in a more or less finely divided state. Many changes have taken place within this period, not only in the art of substitution and adulteration, which is as alert and progressive as any that might be mentioned, but also in matters of legitimate commerce. Hence a thoroughgoing reworking of the field has been made necessary. In connection with this service, Prof. A. L. WINTON, now of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, a pupil of MOELLER, has furnished very important aid in the form of excellent figures as well as text.

The scope of the work is in general indicated by the title and those articles here treated are with few exceptions used as food for man or beast, the term food being defined so as to include such articles as flavoring agents as well as tea, coffee, and cacao. Under the appropriate headings those substances are also described and figured which occur as impurities, substitutions, and adulterations. Since it often happens that condiments are also official drugs, many chapters have a strong pharmaceutical interest. A few articles are considered which have their chief significance as drug products, e. g., sandal wood, guarana, cubebs, cola, saleg, and calamus.

In the treatment of the individual articles, the book is distinguished by a concise and exact statement of the features, gross and microscopic, characterizing the structures concerned, dimensions frequently cited giving definiteness to terms of size.

As valuable as the excellent text, are the numerous drawings illustrative of it. A large number are original, many being by Dr. WINTON. A bibliography of the most important articles written on each subject closes the consideration. One novel feature among the illustrations is seen in the gross pictures of the leaves discussed. Here a direct print is made on a sensitive surface, using the leaf itself as an opaque object. This method has been successfully used before by a number of authors with various objects and here the result is in general successful. Frequently a very considerable amount of detail has

¹ MOELLER, JOSEF, *Mikroskopie der Nahrungs- und Genussmittel aus dem Pflanzenreiche*. Zweite gänzlich umgearbeitete und unter Mitwirkung A. L. Winton's vermehrte Auflage. 8vo. pp. xvi+599. *figs.* 599. Berlin: Julius Springer. 1905. *M* 18; geb. *M* 20.

been obtained in the half tone reproductions of these so-called "autophotograms."

The revision of this important work has again brought it to the front and promises to continue it as one of the valuable literary aids to the investigator of pure foods.—RODNEY H. TRUE.

ALMOST simultaneously with the foregoing has appeared in this country a similar compendium by the same team; this time the pupil leads and the master is the collaborator.² The general plan and purpose of Dr. WINTON's weighty volume are similar to those of Dr. MOELLER'S. The fact that it is in English will give it a sale that the German book could not hope to attain among the food commissioners and inspectors and the official chemists, to whom at present such a work makes its chief appeal. By reason of the existing agitation in this country on the subject of pure foods and drugs, the enforcement of existing laws, and the imminence of new and more exacting legislation, this publication is peculiarly timely. The botanical features are on the whole reasonably accurate, especially the anatomy, which is most fundamental. The definitions in the glossary are not always above criticism, and accuracy would not have rendered them less practical. The illustrations are numerous and good, particularly the original ones. A strong foreign flavor pervades the whole book, showing the impress of the work of MOELLER, yet curiously his second edition is not cited in the bibliography. The arrangement of material, analytic keys, lists of adulterants, and the suggestions as to diagnosis are sure to be of great practical service in the new campaign against sophistication by unscrupulous manufacturers and dealers.—C. R. B.

MINOR NOTICES.

Cryptogamic flora of Brandenburg.³—This monumental work begins its seventh volume with the first fascicle of the Ascomycetes. Its character and scope are so well known that the announcement of its publication and contents will suffice to secure the orders of all who concern themselves with this group. Hemiasci are treated by G. LINDAU; Saccharomycetinae by P. LINDNER; Protascinae by G. LINDAU; Exoascaceae, Erysiphaceae, Perisporiaceae, Macrothyriaceae, and Aspergillaceae by F. NEGER; Onygenaceae, Elaphomycetaceae, Terfeziaceae, and Tuberaceae by P. HENNINGS.—C. R. B.

² WINTON, A. L., The microscopy of vegetable foods, with special reference to the detection of adulteration and the diagnosis of mixtures. With the collaboration of Dr. JOSEF MOELLER. Imp. 8vo. pp. xvi + 701. *figs.* 589. New York: John Wiley & Sons. 1906. \$7.50.

³ Kryptogamenflora der Mark Brandenburg, Band 7, Heft 1. Pilze. Von P. HENNINGS, G. LINDAU, P. LINDNER, F. NEGER. 8vo. pp. 160. *figs.* 17. *pls.* 8. Leipzig: Gebrüder Borntraeger. 1905. M1.50. (Not sold separately.)